Resume of the Football Season of 1908

S everybody happy? Well, rather! By way of explanation we might state that the Corvallis and Multnomah people are not included in the above statement. The late football season, being closed with the two significant victories achieved by the Oregon eleven in Portland, although not a straight line of successes, can be said to bring more satisfaction than any other in the gridiron history of the University. The defeat of Corvallis in return for the bad taste left in our mouths by that 4 to 0 score of last year, is particularly gratifying to those who have followed closely the athletic relations of the two colleges.

The first step in the career of Oregon's 1908 team was the game with the Oregon Alumni eleven, made up of nine All-Northwest stars, including some of the greatest players that ever donned the moleskins on behalf of the University. By a streak of good luck and the aid of Captain Moullen's trusty foot, the old grads were vanquished by the narrow margin of one place kick.

The week following came the game with Willamette. By good individual play the Varsity warriors were able to roll up a score of 15 to 0 against the Methodists. Our team showed up fairly well for so early in the season and everyone was encouraged, for visions of the Northwest championship loomed up in the distance. With the winning of the Idaho game, 27 to 21, these visions took on still more definite form and the Oregon smile began to bud on the campus. Special mention must be made of that notable Idaho game. From all reports it was the fastest and most exciting game ever played in the Northwest, this claim being amply substantiated by a look at the score. The game see-sawed all the way through, first one team leading and then the other. Idaho was ahead 6 to 4 at the end of the first half and yet every Oregon student knew that the Eugene fighters would triumph.

It is amusing to see just how the scores grew. The second half

started with the score 6 to 4 in Idaho's favor. Then Oregon led on a place kick, 8 to 6. Next Idaho 10 to 8 by the same means. Moullen's third place kick made it 12 to 10 for us. Soon Idaho secured another touchdown and again changed the balance of Victory's scales 16 to 12 for the Argonauts. Now Oregon was busy with her first touchdown, and then crowding Idaho out of her turn, made a place kick immediately following, which raised her score to 21, Idaho remaining at 16. Each secured one more touchdown after this, but Oregon was never headed after she made her two scores so closely together. But the most remarkable circumstance connected with this famous game was the fact that the Oregon team ran out of substitutes and was compelled to play the last twenty minutes of the contest with only ten men; and the almost inconceivable feature was that these men, realizing just what they were up against, fought all the more desperately and scored ten points against their opponents. It would have been a matter of courtesy for the Idaho contingent to have allowed Oregon to put in one of her players who had already been taken out, but an Idaho supporter in discussing the point after the game, said, "It was this way. We were there to play football and win, and not to talk ethics."

Following this brilliant conquest came our two defeats of the season by Whitworth and Washington, respectively. Whitworth had us badly outplayed on team work and in fact in this regard nearly outdid the performance of our redoubtable second team the day they erased Second Multnomah. The Oregon men seemed unable to get together on the Whitworth rushes and teamwork was woefully lacking on our side. At that, we would have won had not the brilliant Whitworth halfback, Colbert, whirling, spinning and twisting, made two long runs for touch downs through scattered fields of Oregon men. However, the victory was fairly and cleverly earned by Whitworth and the writer does not wish to detract in the least from their glory.

Since Whitworth was not a conference college, Oregon supporters still had hopes of landing the Northwest championship, but these were rudely shattered by the stinging defeat of 15 to 0, administered by Washington on November 14. With a team outweighing us not a few pounds to the man and including several imported ex-collegiate stars, they were able to batter the Oregon line

for substantial gains. Much credit must also be given them for the use of the new game, for their work with the forward pass and the onside kick was the best shown in the Northwest this year.

After losing this big game the ardor of the Varsity supporters was naturally somewhat dampened, but the famous Oregon spirit which never says die was still deep in every loyal student's heart and all went to Portland to give our beloved eleven the best support of which they were capable. Meanwhile, hardworking Coach Forbes was rounding the men into shape for the biggest contest of the year. His Yale tactics were just commencing to show results. As at Yale, all early season and minor games are made subservient to the Yale-Harvard contest which is the climax of the year's work, so were all of Oregon's efforts directed toward the battle with O. A. C., which is just such a climax to Oregon football as the Yale-Harvard game is to the effete East. Details of this game are unnecessary. All of the wonderful plays by "Oregon's fighting freshman crew," as it was styled by a Multnomah man, are yet clear in our minds and will be for many years to come.

Everyone remarked on the brilliant team work of the Oregon men and one man was heard to state "that the team work was so fine that it made every player an individual star." Captain Moullen with his two place kicks was of course the leading figure in the Oregon ranks, but the punting of Clarke, the breaking up of plays by Pinkham, the fierce tackling of Dodson and the running in of punts by Latourette, all worked together in getting the ball near enough to the goal posts for the kicks to be attempted. No wonder the Oregon students took possession of the city of Portland for a brief time after this victory, for their team, composed of four old men and seven freshmen, had practically annihilated the Corvallis team, which contained seven veterans of their last year's Pacific Coast championship team. Some say that the crys of "Oregon!!! There!!!—Corvallis!!! Not there!!!" resounded through the Portland streets far into the night, but of course I would not pose as an authority for that statement.

The last game of the season, that with Multnomah, can very appropriately be called "The Grand Finale." This was the heaviest team the Oregon players were called upon to face during the year. "It was a case of brains, aided by luck, triumphing over brawn," was the way one sporting writer put it, but I would say rather that

it was an example of fine training, skill, and determination proving superior to weight and lack of condition. Multnomah was extremely anxious to win in order to avenge the defeats of the two previous years, but she was doomed to disappointment. As in the O. A. C. contest the entire team was persistently in the game and teamwork was again evident. Clarke was even better at the punting stunt than before and Captain Moullen averaged 1000 per cent in place kicks, making the last and one of the prettiest of his University career, from the 43 yard line. Pinkham and Dodson again played brilliantly and Means, the freshman center, delighted the Oregon crowd by recovering every fumble available, one of them counting for a touchdown.

Again I will say, as earlier in this article, that every Oregon supporter is more than satisfied with the season. We will let our two defeats be explained by the Corvallis man who claimed that Oregon lost to Whitworth and Washington on purpose, just in order to make O. A. C. overconfident. These two defeats did help, immeasurably in the making of our team into the fighting machine which it showed itself to be in the O. A. C. and Multnomah games.

Coach Robert W. Forbes, Yale, '06, deserves unlimited praise for the manner in which he transformed the four old men and the freshmen and second team material into the victorious combination which they turned out to be. At the beginning of he season, he faced probably the hardest problem that any Oregon coach ever has. The University squad had lost heavily by graduation and ineligibility and only four old men, Moullen, Clarke, McIntyre and Pinkham, were left as a nucleus around which to mould a team. Undaunted by the poor outlook, he set to work and evolved one of the greatest, never-give-up teams that has ever represented the University.

There is one thing which I want to call attention to and of which we are especially proud. Oregon adhered strictly to all the conference rules in regard to eligibility of players. Washington and Pullman were the only teams which finished above us in the final conference score and they are both known to have had players on their teams who were ineligible. If the members of the Oregon Athletic Council had wished, they could have permitted Arnspiger, Hug and Coleman to play, but they chose to stick by their agreements.

In conclusion, let's say farewell to the football men who will be unable to play next year, namely Moullen, McIntyre and Hurd. Moullen will be missed more than any man who ever played for old Oregon. He has won games innumerable by his wonderful place kicking and he stands without a peer in the country in this line today. Incidentally, the man with the famous stub foot holds the world's record for a place kick in a game; a hoist from the fifty-three yard line which was made in the Idaho game of this year.

From a financial standpoint the season has been a grand success. Manager Ralph B. McEwen, who has handled the coin very efficiently, will turn close to $2,500 into the student exchequer, after settling up a heavy expense account.

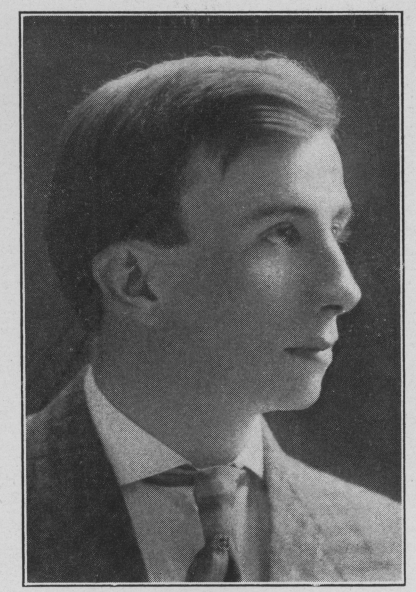
Much credit is due to our great trainer, "Bill" Hayward, for the excellent condition which the Oregon men were in at the time of our final big games. Also assistant coach Arnspiger comes in for his share of praise and the yell leaders, Loosely and Van Dusen, deserve especial mention for their untiring efforts.

As a closing remark, I wish to say another word in regard to our jovial coach. The man from Yale has more than made good with the University at large and the football team. He put out an eleven which won five out of seven games, scored 74 points to 52 for its opponents, and won the undisputed championship of the state. Not at all bad for a squad composed principally of freshmen and entirely unknown to the coach.

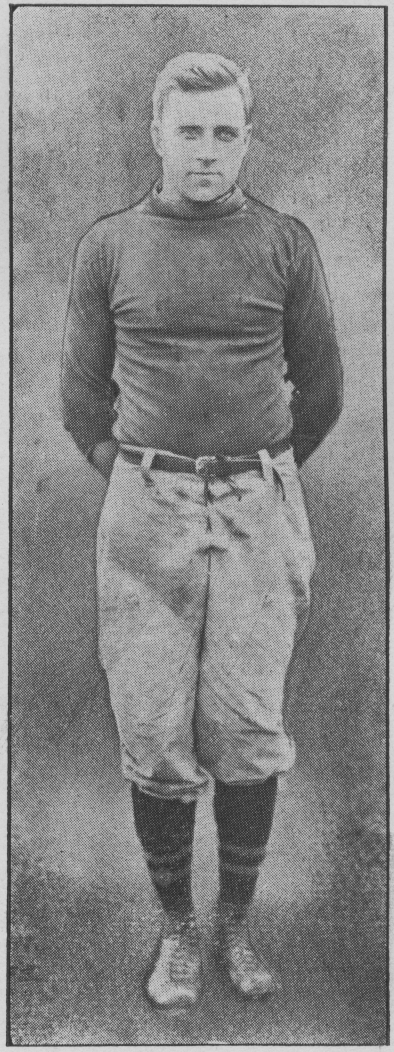
Here's hoping that we get him again next year.

—Oliver B. Huston, '10.

Captain Moullen



Manager McEwen



Coach Forbes